

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

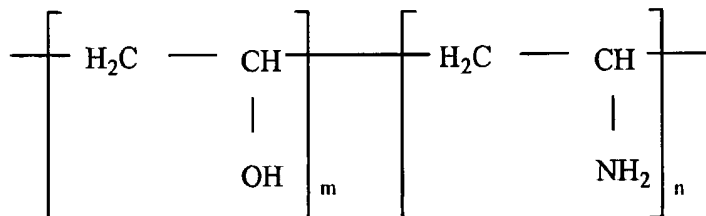
This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application. Please amend claims 1 and 3.

Claim 1 (currently amended): An adhesive composition comprising an organic polymer having in the polymer backbone amine groups selected from the group consisting of primary and secondary amine groups and mixtures thereof and a crosslinking agent for crosslinking the polymer to a fibrous web, said agent being selected from zirconium compounds wherein the zirconium has a valence of plus four, wherein the composition is a ~~releaseable~~ releasable adhesive.

Claim 2 (previously presented): An adhesive composition as claimed in claim 1 characterized in that the organic polymer is selected from the group consisting of chitosan, polyvinylamine, polyvinyl alcohol-vinyl amine and polyaminoamide.

Claim 3 (currently amended): An adhesive composition as claimed in claim 1 or claim 2 characterized in that the crosslinking agent is a zirconium compound selected from the group consisting of ammonium zirconium carbonate, zirconium acetylacetonate, zirconium acetate, zirconium carbonate, zirconium sulfate, zirconium phosphate, potassium zirconium carbonate, zirconium sodium phosphate and sodium zirconium ~~tartarate~~ tartrate.

Claim 4 (previously presented): An adhesive composition as claimed in claim 3 characterized in that the organic polymer is selected from the group consisting of polyvinyl alcohol-vinyl amine copolymers of the following structure:



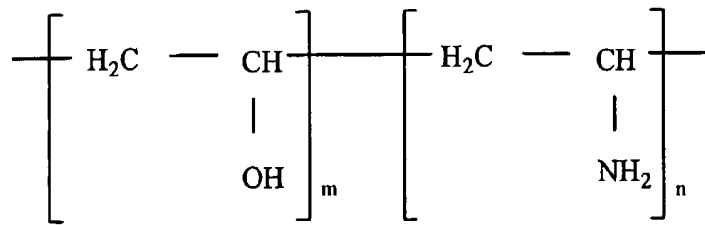
wherein m and n have values of 1 to 99 and 99 to 1 respectively.

Claim 5 (previously presented): The adhesive composition of claim 4 wherein m and n have values of 1 to 99 and 2 to 20 respectively.

Claims 6-25 (canceled).

⁶
Claim ~~26~~ (previously presented): The adhesive composition of claim 1 or claim 2 wherein the crosslinking agent is ammonium zirconium carbonate.

⁷
⁶ Claim ~~27~~ (previously presented): An adhesive composition as claimed in claim ~~26~~ characterized in that the organic polymer is selected from the group consisting of polyvinyl alcohol-vinyl amine copolymers of the following structure:



wherein m and n have values of 1 to 99 and 99 to 1 respectively.

⁸
Claim ~~28~~ (previously presented): The adhesive composition of claim 27 wherein m and n have values of 1 to 99 and 2 to 20 respectively.

⁹
Claim ~~29~~ (previously presented): An adhesive composition as claimed in claim 1 wherein the organic polymer is dissolved in water to create a solution, wherein the solution has a liquid component and a solid component and the liquid component is about 90 to about 99% by weight of said solution.

¹⁰
Claim ~~30~~ (previously presented): An adhesive composition as claimed in claim 1 wherein the weight ratio of the zirconium crosslinking agent to the organic polymer is about 4:1.

¹¹
Claim ~~31~~ (previously presented): An adhesive composition as claimed in claim 1 wherein the weight ratio of the zirconium crosslinking agent to the organic polymer is about 0.05:1 to about 2:1.

Claims 32-33 (canceled).

Claim ¹²⁾~~34~~ (previously presented): The adhesive composition of claim 1 wherein the adhesive composition, when adhered to a Yankee dryer, exhibits a peel force of about 300 to about 900 grams per 12 inches of fibrous web when using a papermaking machine having a speed of less than 150 feet per minute.

Claim ¹³⁾~~35~~ (previously presented): The adhesive composition of claim 1 wherein said composition is sprayable.

Claim ¹⁴⁾~~36~~ (previously presented): The adhesive composition of claim 1 or claim 2 wherein the crosslinking agent is potassium zirconium carbonate.